

Statement on the near fatality of a nine-month-old girl

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On April 26, 2021, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a 9-month-old boy who was found unresponsive after ingesting fentanyl. The child was transported to the hospital and determined to be in critical condition.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home was placed with relatives. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was also placed with those same relatives.

On April 29, 2021, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court regarding the near fatality victim and his sibling.

On May 6, 2021, the court found the mother, Priscilla Caldera, neglected the near fatality victim.

The Department is currently providing services to the family.

DCS received the following prior report involving Ms. Caldera and the near fatality victim:

On July 18, 2020, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Caldera neglected the near fatality victim and his sibling. The report alleged that Ms. Caldera used substances during her pregnancy. Both Ms. Caldera and the children tested negative for drugs at the time of birth. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. DCS provided the family with community resources. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.